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BRIEFER ARTICLES

LUCIEN MARCUS UNDERWOOD

(WITH PORTRAIT)

The editors of the *BOTANICAL GAZETTE* wish to make this brief record of the life and work of a distinguished American botanist and an intimate personal friend. The papers prepared for the memorial meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club, held January 29, 1908, have been published in the *Bulletin* of that club (35:1-43, 1908), so that a full account is not necessary here.



Professor UNDERWOOD was born October 26, 1853, at New Woodstock, N. Y., and died at Redding, Conn., November 16, 1907. He graduated at Syracuse University in 1877, and held the following college and university positions: Hedding College (1880), Illinois Wesleyan University (1880-1883), Syracuse University (1883-1890), De Pauw University (1890-1895), Alabama Polytechnic Institute (1895-1896), Columbia University (1896-1907).

His chief work was with the Pteridophytes, and the repeated editions of *Our native ferns* bore testimony to his early activity and to the popularity of the book. This work laid the foundation for the larger and more serious interest in the group which bore abundant fruit in his maturer years. The Hepaticae were also included in the range of his professional interest; and the Fungi also shared in his contributions. His bibliography, as published in the memorial proceedings referred to, includes 212 titles, 188 of which are botanical; and among these 78 deal with Pteridophytes, 31 with Hepaticae, and 29 with Fungi.

Great as is the loss to American botany, the personal loss will be felt still more keenly by his colleagues. He was eminently a companionable

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man, and at every botanical gathering which included him he was a center of sprightly conversation and good feeling. These qualities, and his untiring and unselfish devotion to his work and to his students, developed for him an amount of personal affection and loyalty that was his chief possession. His place in American botany was sufficiently unique to remain vacant; and his personality will be still more impossible to duplicate.

A CONVENIENT TRAVELING BALANCE

(WITH TWO FIGURES)

In carrying out certain lines of investigation involving more or less travel, or the establishment of temporary stations remote from well-equipped laboratories, the lack of a compact and readily transportable balance, of a fair degree of sensitiveness, often seriously hampers the progress of the

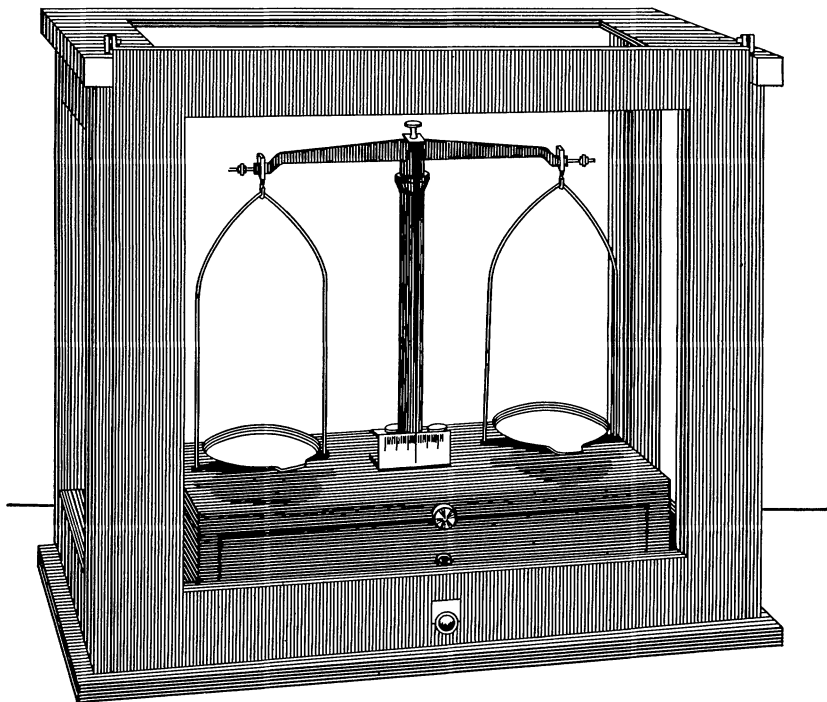


FIG. 1.—Balance set up within the closed case.

work. The ordinary balance inclosed in its glass case is too cumbersome and fragile to be readily transported, yet no dependable weighing can be made except upon a suitable balance properly protected.